

Message Text

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72

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

/090 W

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R 081215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO STATE WASHDC 5691

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

/CINCPAC

JCS WASHDC

COMUSSAG

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5112

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI CB

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CONSCRIPTION

REF: PHNOM PENH 4738

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH MIXED TEAMS FOR ROUNDING UP DESERTERS AND DRAFT DODGERS HAVE BEGUN TO SHOW RESULTS, FANK ACCESSIONS FROM PHNOM PENH ARE STILL LOW, AVERAGING ONLY 68 NEW RECRUITS PER DAY DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED TO PRESIDENT LON NOL THAT THE PROBLEM OF OBTAINING MORE MEN BE ADDRESSED BY THE NEWLY CREATED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

2. DRAFT NOTICES CONTINUE TO GO OUT AT ABOUT 500 PER DAY BUT POOR RESPONSE AND A LARGE NUMBER O EXEMPTIONS ARE KEEPING ACCESSIONS DOWN. THE CAPITAL SUPPLIED 473 MEN DURING APRIL-17 AND THE PROVINCES FURNISHED AN ADDIONAL 1,012. OVERALL PHNOM PENH HAS PROVIDED 17,228 OR 26,107 MEN RECURITED NATIONWIDE SINCE THE DRIVE BEGAN LAST OCTOBER.

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3. FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE CHIEF OF THE MIXED TEAMS CHARGED WITH ROUNDING UP DESERTERS AND DRAFT DODGERS SHOW THAT THE TEAMS HAVE FINALLY MOVED INTO ACTION. THE THIRTY TEAMS NETTED 103 DESERTERS AND 173 DRAFT DODGERS IN THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF APRIL. THESE TEAMS CONTINUE TO SUFFER FROM LACK OF LOCAL COOPERATION AND BASIC INFORMATION, HOWEVER. THE CAPITAL'S THIRD LARGEST WARD, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS YET TO SUPPLY A LIST OF DRAFT DODGERS BASED ON NOTICES SENT OUT SINCE THE SECOND PHASE OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN BEGAN MARCH 6. THE WARD CHIEF TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO DISTURB ANYONE'S NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AND WILL SEND THE LIST TO THE TEAMS NEXT WEEK. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT SUSTAINED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS BY THE MIXED TEAMS WILL PRODUCE A MUCH BETTER RESPONSE TO DRAFT NOTICES.

4. SINCE CONSCRIPTION AND PERSONNEL SHIFTS WITHIN FANK (SEPTEL) ARE FALLING SUBSTANTIALLY SHORT OF PRODUCING THE NUMBER OF MEN REQUIRED FOR THE INTERVENTION UNITS, WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO PRESIDENT LON NOL THAT THE NEWLY CREATED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AT AN EARLY DATE, AND HE HAS AGREED.
DEAN

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NNN

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